

Hepatitis B and Pregnancy

What is Hepatitis B?

It is a liver disease caused by a virus that is easily passed to others

How is Hepatitis B spread?

Contact with blood or body fluids from an infected person by:

- Pregnant women can pass it to their baby during birth
- Breaks in the skin such as bites, cuts, or sores
- Having unprotected sex
- Needles, toothbrushes, razors or tattoo or piercing tools

Hepatitis B is not spread by:

- Food
- Water
- Clean eating utensils
- Shaking hands
- Breast Feeding

How is Hepatitis B prevented?

- Make sure your baby receives two shots named HBIG & hepatitis B vaccine within 12 hours of birth
- Test and/or vaccinate:
 - Close Contacts
 - People that live in your home
 - People that you have sex with
 - People that you share needles with
- Always use a condom
- Do not share used needles, toothbrushes, razors, tattoo or piercing tools
- Do not chew food for your baby
- Cover open wounds
- Clean-up spilled blood immediately

Follow-Up Care For Mothers that Have Hepatitis B

- Your baby must receive the 2nd and 3rd hepatitis B shots on schedule
- Take your child's vaccination record to every health visit
- At 9-18 months of age your baby will need a blood test to make sure they are protected
- Ask your healthcare provider for a referral to a liver specialist



Complications

- Flu-like symptoms
- Yellow skin & eyes
- Dark urine
- Grey colored stools
- Scarring of the liver
- Liver failure
- Liver cancer
- Death

Information/Resources

For more information or additional resources regarding hepatitis B, please contact the Los Angeles County Immunization Program Perinatal Hepatitis B Prevention Unit at (213) 351-7400 or visit our website at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/ip/>